Upliftment of poor

222. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as many as 2.8 billion people live below the poverty line with incomes averaging $2.00 a day; and

(b) if so, what concrete steps are being taken by Government for the upliftment of the poor and raising their purchasing power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) World Development Report, 2000-2001 published by the World Bank has mentioned that of the world's 6 billion people, 2.8 billion live on less than $2.00 a day.

(b) There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are : (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human, and social development through literacy, education, health nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.

The increase in income of the people living below the poverty line occurs from the joint impact of general growth process and direct income generation of the poor arising from various anti-poverty programmes introduced from time to time by the Government for their upliftment. Since the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980—85), the Government has been implementing employment and asset generation schemes for the upliftment of the people living below the poverty line. These schemes are mainly of two types, self-employment and wage employment. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) has been the major self-employment programme and it has been in operation in all the blocks of the country since 1980. The wage employment programme initially was National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) during the Sixth Plan period. In the Seventh Plan, another wage employment programme under the

name Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) was introduced. Then in 1989, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) was launched by merging the National Rural Employment Programme and the Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme, and it became the main wage-employment programme. In addition, several programmes to help the poor were also in operation until March, 1999. These programmes are: Million Wells Scheme (MWS), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA).

From 1st April, 1999, these programmes, excepting EAS and JRY have been restructured into single self-employment programme called the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) with the primary objectives of focussed approach to poverty alleviation, capitalising advantages of group lending, and overcoming the problems associated with multiplicity of programmes. Also, from 1st April, 1999, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) has been restructured as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) with the primary objective of creation of demand driven community village infrastructure including durable assets at the village level and assets to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. Its secondary objective is generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in the rural areas. The wage employment under the programme is given to Below Poverty Lines (BPL) families.

From 1.12.1997, Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is the main poverty alleviation programme in the urban areas. The SJSRY, which has subsumed all the earlier three urban poverty alleviation programmes, viz., Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP), Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP), seeks to provide gainful employment to unemployed or underemployed urban and educated up to IX standard for setting up self employment ventures or provision of wage employment. The implementation of SJSRY is relying on suitable community structures on the UBSP

pattern and delivery of inputs under this programme is through the medium of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and such community structure.

Utilisation of MPLADS Funds

223. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government ensure that MPLADS funds are used for the purpose laid down in the guidelines;

(b) if so, the details of the cases of violations of guidelines detected during the last two years; and

(c) the steps proposed to ensure utility of the funds for the purposes for which the same were sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme, District Heads are to implement works recommended by Members of Parliament strictly according to the provisions of the Guidelines on MPLADS. The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation periodically advises the District Heads/State Government in this regard.

(b) 49 cases of alleged violations of Guidelines were brought to the notice of the Ministry by Members of Parliament during the year 1999 and 2000.

(c) As and when any instance of violation of Guidelines in brought to the notice of the Government, the concerned State Government/UT Administration is advised to investigate into the matter and take remedial action.